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MISSION STATEMENT
Report of the Executive Director

This draft mission statement is presented in response to the Executive Board's request in decision 95/15 that the Executive Director submit a draft mission statement based on the report contained in document DP/1995/25 and Corr.1 that was considered by the Board at its annual session in 1995. This draft mission statement is the result of numerous consultations over the course of the past 13 months beginning with a post-ICPD retreat of UNFPA's Management Committee, continuing through its Global Meeting in Rye, New York, in June 1995, where it was a prominent feature on the agenda, and then to various presentations to all UNFPA professional staff, both at headquarters and in the field. A previous draft of the mission statement has been circulated informally to members of the Executive Board, and the statement has benefited from their comments.

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UNFPA MISSION STATEMENT

UNFPA is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to extend assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and other countries at their request to help them address reproductive health and population issues.

UNFPA's three main areas of work are: to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; to promote awareness of population and development issues and to advocate for the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its areas of work.

UNFPA is guided by, and promotes, the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). In particular, UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. All individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as well as the right to the information and means to do so.

UNFPA believes that safeguarding and promoting these rights; ensuring universal access to reproductive health; ensuring the equality, autonomy and empowerment of women; and promoting the well-being of children, especially girl children, are development goals in themselves.

UNFPA believes that meeting these goals will contribute to the universally accepted aim of stabilizing world population. We also believe that population stabilization is an integral part of all efforts to achieve sustained and sustainable social and economic development that meets human needs, ensures well-being and protects the natural resources on which all life depends.

UNFPA recognizes that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as expressed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and in other internationally agreed instruments.

UNFPA, as the lead United Nations agency for the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, is fully committed to working in partnership with all parts of the United Nations system, development banks, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society. UNFPA strongly supports the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the implementation of all relevant United Nations decisions.

UNFPA will assist in the mobilization of resources from both developed and developing countries, following the commitments made by all countries in the Programme of Action to ensure that the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development are met. In particular, UNFPA works to ensure that reproductive rights and gender equality and male responsibility are firmly established norms of all societies and that sexual and reproductive health including family planning will be universally available to all couples and individuals worldwide on or before the year 2015.